

VII.—MEMOIRS

LIST OF OUR DECEASED COMRADES—DETROIT CONFERENCE

1945-46

EFFECTIVE MINISTERS

CHARLES CHRISTOPHER BECKER

Charles Christopher Becker was born in Flint, October 27, 1879. His father and mother were members of long standing in the Court Street Church, and from that Church he received his Local Preacher's license.

His father died when he was four, and his mother when he was fifteen which necessitated his leaving school before graduation. When he was twenty-one years of age, he heard the call of God to the Christian ministry and the next ten years were given to preparation for his life's work. He finished his high school work, took his A.B. from Albion, his M.A. from the University of Wisconsin, and his B.D. from Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston.

In 1909 he was married to Huldah Millard, and this union was blessed with two sons, Raymond Millard, and Wilfred Charles.

The first years of his ministry were spent in Wisconsin, where he served the following charges: Verona; Frederick; St. Croix Falls; Burlington; English Settlement and High St.; Evansville and Cooksville; Grand Rapids and Port Edwards; Lake Mills and Milford. In 1921 he came to the Detroit Conference and has served the following Churches: Trinity, Flint; First Church, Saginaw; Wyandotte; Calvary, Detroit; First Church, Birmingham, and his final Church was Bethany, Detroit.

For 24 years Charlie, as he was affectionately called, did an outstanding piece of work on the Board of Ministerial Training of the Detroit Conference, of which he was chairman for many years. Wherever he went he did thorough and painstaking work. One outstanding piece of work was at Calvary, Detroit, where he helped solve a long and troublesome financial problem. He led his people with a budget that had almost doubled and before he left had paid almost one-half the debt.

Few of his brethren in the ministry were aware that in his early manhood he had a slight impediment in his speech. Indeed there were fears that it might interfere with his career as a minister. Those who were familiar with his clear enunciation little dreamed that it took the reading aloud to his wife of more than one hundred books to correct the difficulty.

Charles Becker was a good minister of Jesus Christ. He took his orders from his Master and went ahead. He was a hard worker. He was everlastingly at it. The only budgeting of his time was that which made it possible for him to do the greatest amount of work in a full day. He was first, last, and all the time a student. There were those who came under his direction on the Bd. of Ministerial Training, who thought him severe, but it was his thought of them and their future and his stewardship to the Conference and to Christ, which made him what he was. He never asked any man to do what he had not already done himself. In his study he had a standing table. When he grew tired he did not

go and lie down, he stood up and read. He loved his Greek Testament and read it daily, and just before the end, when one of his brother ministers asked him if the light was still burning, he answered from the oxygen tent "Yes," in both Greek and English. The last thing he did before he left his study for the hospital was to leave an open Bible on his desk which he said was the symbol of his ministry.

The end finally came in Deaconess Hospital, Detroit, on Saturday morning, Sept. 22, 1945. The funeral service was conducted in Bethany Methodist Church on Tuesday, Sept. 25th, and interment took place in the family lot in Flint. His old friend and classmate, P. Ray Norton, presided at the service at the church; Sidney D. Eva offered prayer; Russell D. Hopkins read the Scriptures; John A. Yeoman paid tribute and Marshall R. Reed brought the Scripture meditation. The service at the cemetery was conducted by Wm. E. Harrison. The presence of a large number of ministers at the services, paid tribute to the high regard in which he was held.

His fellow ministers, John W. Parrish, Charles J. Bayless, William N. Hughes, E. Shurley Johnson, A. H. Wallschlaeger and Cadman Prout, acted as pall-bearers.

ERNEST A. BENEDICT

On January 9, 1946, Rev. Ernest A. Benedict, for the past two years pastor of the Michelson Memorial Methodist Church in Grayling, died after an illness of two weeks.

For thirty years Ernest Benedict had held the Christian ministry as a sacred trust and had given faithful and efficient service to his Lord and to his church. Twenty-one of these years had been spent in two long and happy pastorates, twelve on the Owosso Circuit and nine with the Fostoria and West Deerfield church. From 1933 to 1935 he was president of the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. Before this he had served for ten years as assistant secretary and secretary of the conference, and, following his presidency, he again took up the secretarial duties for several years and in this office gave valuable assistance during the time of merger and formation of The Methodist Church.

Brother Benedict's boyhood home was in Hillsdale County, where he was born August 10, 1891, to Orson and Grace Benedict. His early life was surrounded by Christian influences. He grew up in the church and early became an earnest follower of Christ. Following his years in the country school, he went to Raisin Valley Seminary near Adrian and then to Adrian College. While a college student he was active in Christian work and during 1915-16 he served as supply pastor of the Britton charge. During the year 1918-19 he was a student in Westminster Theological Seminary in Maryland but his seminary training was cut short by an attack of pneumonia.

On his recovery Mr. Benedict decided to enter the active ministry at once and, being received into the Michigan Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, went with his bride of a month, the former Miss Bessie Ganun, to be pastor of the church at Attica. A former marriage while in

college had shortly been broken by death. To the second union were born two children, who survive their father, Mrs. Marian Manwell of Fostoria and Corporal Robert Benedict.

Two years after the death of the children's mother, Mr. Benedict was married in September, 1933, to Miss Florence Kincade, an active worker in the church at Fostoria, and after his term of presidency of the conference, they went to Fostoria for a long pastorate and lived in the home which Mrs. Benedict still owns. Since conference of 1944 they have served the church in Grayling, where they greatly endeared themselves to the people of the community.

Two funeral services were held. On Tuesday, Feb. 19 the Michelson Memorial Church in Grayling was filled with local parishioners and ministers from the northern part of the Saginaw Bay District for a service conducted by the district superintendent, Dr. Frank M. Field, assisted by Rev. Bertram McNally of Harrisville, Rev. Howard C. Watkins of Gaylord, and Dr. E. Ray Willson of Caro. On Wednesday final services were held in the Fostoria church, conducted by Dr. E. Ray Willson, an associate of Brother Benedict all through his ministry. The many ministers present sat on the platform and served as a guard of honor.—Frank M. Field.

REV. BRUCE DAVIS

The funeral of Rev. Bruce Davis was held Saturday afternoon November 30, in Van Buren Methodist Church, Bay City, the church of his last pastorate. Death came November 27, as a result of a second cerebral hemorrhage in an 11-day illness. The funeral was conducted by the district superintendent, Dr. Frank M. Field, assisted by Rev. C. F. Wolfe, Rev. Paul Plueddemann, Rev. Earl Sawyer, and Rev. H. W. Kuhlman. Pallbearers were ministerial brethren. Remains will rest in White Chapel Memorial Cemetery near Birmingham.

Bruce Davis was born March 12, 1903, near Mason. He was graduated from Central High School, Lansing, in 1924, and studied further in Albion College, Wayne University, Garrett Biblical Institute, and Adrian College, obtaining the A.B. degree from the latter institution in 1941. He married Lucille Zachow June 27, 1927. Besides his widow he leaves two daughters, Jeanne, 13, and Patricia, 11; two brother, LeRoy of Milford, and Romaine of Mason; one sister, Mrs. Blanche Joki in Detroit, and a mother, 84 years old, resident at Commerce Lake.

Death closed a long struggle against ill health at the age of 42. His ministry was short, only 21 years, yet it blessed many persons in the parishes he served: Ewen, Inkster, Munith, Dixboro, Clayton, New Haven and Meade, Argyle, Fairgrove, Washington, First Church in Flint, Pigeon, and VanBuren and Thoburn, Bay City. He was consecrated, zealous, painstaking and sincere. He felt the call to preach early in life and began at once to render Christian service, holding meetings for his schoolmates. Rev. Clyde Donald influenced the youth in his formative years in Lansing.

RETIRED MINISTERS

WILLIAM CLARK McALLISTER

After seven months of patient suffering at his home in Bay City Rev. William Clark McAllister found welcome release in death in the morning of February 20, 1946. Surviving him are Mrs. McAllister; two daughters, Mrs. Robert Gray, of Bay City, and Mrs. Clinton Baker, of Harvey, Ill.; four grandchildren and a great grandchild. He was 86 years old, having been born in Pittsburgh, Pa., May 1, 1859.

Two of his brothers were Methodist ministers, and one of them, James McAllister, came to Michigan and was admitted on trial in the Detroit Conference in 1883. In 1884 William came to visit his brother, who was pastor in Marysville, and remained to do supply work in the "burnt over" sections of Huron County around Bad Axe, blighted by the great forest fire of 1881.

The next year William was appointed to the Armada charge and served one year as a supply. Being impressed with the work of a "praying band" of young people from Point Edward, Ont., who were assisting his brother James in evangelistic meetings in Marysville, William engaged the group for a revival in Armada. As a result of the meetings, which continued four weeks, he not only had many baptisms and reception of new members, but also found a wife in Miss Catharine Crawford, a member of the "praying band." They were married in Point Edward in 1886 and returned to Pennsylvania, where he was admitted into the Pittsburgh Conference, on trial in 1886 and in full connection in 1888.

After two years in the Pittsburgh Conference William McAllister transferred to the East Ohio Conference, of which his brother James was a member by transfer from the Detroit Conference. He served four years in Ohio, then eight years in the Northern Minnesota Conference. In 1893 he went to Evanston for a special course in Garret Biblical Institute and, besides preaching in a church nearby, he served as a guide at the World's Fair.

In 1900 he transferred back to the Detroit Conference and was appointed to Caseville. Charges served in this conference included Kingston, Forester, Uby, Ruby, Memphis, Lexington and Elkton on the Port Huron District. His last two appointments were on the Saginaw District, Smith's Creek, now known as Mapleton, and Woodside Ave., Bay City. Since his retirement in 1918 Brother McAllister has been a highly esteemed member of the Madison Ave., Bay City, congregation. He has been an inspiration to every pastor and many laymen.

At the funeral service in Madison Ave. church on February 22, conducted by the district superintendent, Dr. Frank M. Field, and the pastor, Rev. Earl P. Sawyer, sincere tributes were paid to his sterling Christian character, his rich Christian experience and faith.

REV. WILLIAM W. LOWE

Rev. William W. Lowe, retired member of the Detroit Conference, died at his home in Strathroy, Ontario, on Friday, July 13. Joining the